

ANYONE who has noticed the way in which the Chinese builders scamp their work can hardly be surprised that houses collapse now and then. A few days ago we noticed the Chinese method of blocking up the holes left in the wall of a building for the scaffolding supports to be put through. Instead of each hole having one or two bricks neatly fitted into it, a jumble of odd scraps was thrown in and the hole covered by a dab of mortar. No wonder that walls crack and bulge and collapse when weak spots are left in them in this manner.

TO-DAY the Chinese residents appear to be holding high carnival in many quarters. A reference to the Chinese Calendar shows that to-day is the "Mid Autumn Festival" (*Chung Chu Chai*) and also the day for the Feast of Lanterns. For weeks past itinerant vendors were to be seen everywhere hawking gaily-coloured paper lanterns of grotesque shapes and they all seemed to drive a steady trade. The floating population of the harbour kept up a brisk trade of crackers all day and many of the junks, cargo boats and sampans off West Point presented quite a gala appearance. Many had fish-shaped and other lanterns hanging aloft and all affected big red flags and streamers, some of the latter being as long as a British warship's flying-off pennant. To-night all men will make chicha Joss to moon.

THE Chinese barber charged with drugging a woman and stealing from her sundry jewellery was brought up on remand at the Magistrate's yesterday. Mr. Frank Brown, Acting Government Analyst, stated that in the bottles given to him to examine he had discovered *datura alba* powdered, and mixed with liquid. In one bottle he found .53 oz. of hyoscyne, which was the active poisonous stupefying principle of *datura alba*. The cup from which the woman drank showed no trace of poison but it had probably been used afterwards. Complainant said she felt the poison three-quarters of an hour after drinking. The *datura* poison had no taste. Evidence was given as to complainant being received at the Civil Hospital and defendant being arrested. Complainant, recalled, said she tasted nothing wrong with the sambois drank. Prisoner stated that the bottle containing *datura alba* was used by him for the opium habit and the powders were also for his own private use. The pills were also to cure the opium habit. His Worship remanded the case till Wednesday next to enable enquiries to be made as to whether *datura alba* was used for the opium habit. At the same time he expressed the opinion that a man not in custody was more guilty than defendant. Sergeant Hall stated the latter was a barber in Wanchai and was well known. The other was a travelling barber and nothing had been seen of him since.

WE are surprised to learn from a letter in the *Times* (says the *Lancet*) the vessels' out feet are not provided with ice-making machinery. For the sick in tropical waters, ice, we should have thought, is an absolute necessity. Yet it appears that it is not usual to find ice-making apparatus provided on our warships. If this be true, it can only be regarded as a standing reproach to the Admiralty. With all the available steam power and machinery on board these vessels, of the equipment of which we are well proud, there surely is left space enough, be it ever so small, for an ice-making apparatus. The space required would by no means be large, and the cost would certainly be very trifling, especially when compared with other machinery on board. We hope the matter will be brought to the notice of the Admiralty and that they will see their way to remove every serious omission in the equipment of our men-of-war. It appears, however, from a letter from a firm of manufacturers in the *Times* that certain ships in the navy have recently been fitted up with ice-making apparatus, and that orders have been received to equip other ships of the fleet in a similar way. This is as it should be, but at the same time it indicates that not very long ago no such provision was made, so that the statements of the correspondent who first drew attention to the subject were probably right. Such machinery would be a very decided boon on board vessels on the China station especially.

At the German Consular Court, Shanghai (before Dr. Zimmermann, and Messrs. J. Lemke, Melchers, T. F. C. Lemke and Count Butler) Mr. Siegfried Voelkel, pharmaceutical chemist, of the firm of Voelkel and Schroeder, was charged with causing the death of "Wilfred Arthur Chambers, aged 3 years and 10 months, by dispensing strychnine instead of salutarina, as prescribed by Dr. Zeileus. It will be remembered that about a month ago the deceased was ill and the Doctor called in prescribed salutarina, but by mistake the chemist made up strychnine, with the result that the child died soon after the supposed salutarina was administered to him by his father. It appears that the German law is very strict in matters of this kind and although it was apparently quite clear that Mr. Voelkel could have had no reason for making such a mistake, that it was in fact the result of an accident which no one regretted more than the chemist himself, who is an old and much respected member of the foreign community of Shanghai, the Court took a very serious view of the matter and exercised his authority over Mr. Voelkel. It transpired in evidence that a portion of the powders supplied by Mr. Voelkel were sent to Hongkong for analysis by our Government Analyst and that he certified that the powders contained one part of strychnine and 5 to 6 parts of sugar of milk. Dr. Zeileus stated that there is a new medicine (a mixture of strychnine and sugar of milk) and he thought it probable Mr. Voelkel had mistaken that for salutarina. Mr. Voelkel said it was utterly impossible to him how the mistake was made. He knew that he was anyhow responsible. The Court, after discussing the evidence in private for an hour, returned and passed sentence of four weeks imprisonment and costs. The *Shanghai Mercury* and other papers express sympathy with Mr. Voelkel. It is thought that had the case been tried in an English court the result would have been that accused would either have been discharged with a caution or let off with a nominal fine.

IN a supplement to this issue of the *Hongkong Telegraph* there will be found a very interesting article on the Palestine Limited Liability Company, a gigantic emigration scheme which is being pushed forward with a view to obtaining for the Jews in the near future full possession of Palestine. It is proposed to people the country with Jews and to set up therein a democratic form of Government based in great measure upon what is considered best in English institutions.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS appear to be coming on well this year, the young plants looking strong and healthy, and are giving promise of a fine display of blossoms. The weather has been particularly suited to gardening so far, and the absence of high winds, which play such havoc with pot plants, has also been in the favour of the gardeners and spared him the vexation of seeing his most promising efforts ruined when but half grown. The dahlias are well advanced, and, although not so popular as the more showy chrysanthemums, promise a display.

We hear that a few snipe have already appeared in the paddyfields but are at present too scattered to afford a good bag except to the sportsman who does not mind a long and hot tramp in the blazing sunshine. It is said that partridges are fairly plentiful this season in certain localities and altogether there seems to be a fair prospect of some decent sport later on. By the way, it is somewhat curious that many of the birds from Mr. May's game preserve have migrated to a different part of the island. Should this prove to be the case they will doubtless afford a pleasant variation to the bill of fare of some enterprising Hakka squatter.

MR. J. G. G. reports the shipping stocks that "Steamboats close steadily at \$32. Douglas's found buyers at \$56, but more shares are on offer, although I hear that in the report to be published shortly a final dividend of 4 per share (making 46 or 72 per cent. per annum in all for the working year) will be proposed. China Mutuals have buyers, but no sellers at quotation; an interim dividend of 3 per cent. has been declared on the company's preference shares, and same is payable on 1st proximo transfer books closing from 27th to 30th inst.

COTTON yarns from Japan and India have suffered considerably, remarks the *Japan Mail*, in consequence of the serious fluctuations in the rates of exchange on Hongkong. The trade is almost at a standstill, buyers supplying only their immediate requirements. Of Japanese yarns, 20's in particular have suddenly fallen in value from \$5.50 to \$4.75 while there is scarcely any demand for 40's. As for Indian yarns, sales have to a certain extent been effected for both 16's and 20's, of ordinary and choice qualities. The export from Japan and India during two weeks ending the 12th ult. was 1,003 and 14,600 bales respectively, actual sales aggregating 407 bales for the former country and 8,624 bales for the latter. Prices varied from \$10.60 to \$11.00 for 16's, and from \$11.10 to \$11.20 for 20's.

INTERESTING CHINESE EMIGRATION CASE.

MAJESTY'S PROCEEDINGS.
MR. C. L. Gorman appeared at the Magistrate's yesterday, charged by Inspector Hansen with having engaged to provide a certain person with a passage by the steamer *Madusa* from Hongkong to Singapore on the 8th inst., and unlawfully neglecting to attend with him at the Emigration Office for the purpose of delivering to him a contract ticket as required by law. Inspector Hansen said that on the 8th inst. at 12.30 p.m. he went on board the *Madusa*, which was about to leave for Singapore. She had Chinese passengers by virtue of the General Emigration License. A Chinaman named Chu Nyan went to him and said that he did not want to go. He asked him if he had a ticket and he produced one. He asked him for his name and age and he gave the same as appeared in the contract ticket. He said he had not been before the Emigration Office at the Harbour Office. He charged the defendant under Sec. 33 of Ordinance 1 of 1880.

Defendant—This is an absolutely false charge and there is no truth in it. Am I charged with not attending at the Harbour Office?
Inspector Hansen—Yes, with this man.

Defendant—I attended at the Harbour Office. If the man did not go there I could not take him. His Worship told defendant to make his defence later on.

Chu Nyan, painter, said that on the 1st inst. he was walking along a street in Canton and he met a man who asked him to go abroad. This man brought him here with three others by the *Sakong*, but when the steamer arrived here he left and went to Tientsin. On the morning of the 8th he was walking on the Pkay and met the same man who was taking the other three on board a steamer. He told witness that he had promised to go too and asked why he did not, and then took him on board a steamer. While he was there he saw the Inspector to whom he complained. He did not go to the Harbour Office nor did he receive any advance.

Defendant—If you did not want to go abroad why did you go on board?—After I went on board I changed my mind.
Inspector Hansen said that the ticket had been passed in the Harbour Office and was charged with not attending there. He went there with the holder of the ticket and did not know how this man got it. He thought that the man was a broker who got an advance from a boarding house keeper to emigrate to Singapore and, having seen the Inspector, he complained to him to jump overboard and swim ashore when the ship was near Green Island.

MR. F. H. May, Capt. Superintendent of Police, said that this man was found on board with the passage ticket and the broker was responsible, otherwise the Ordinance was only waste paper.
J. L. Alves, clerk at the Harbour Office, was called and said that it was his duty to attend to emigration business. On this occasion the intending passengers attended at the Harbour Office and defendant was with them. They were informed by a Chinese interpreter where they were going and that they were free. Then each one was individually brought to him and when they were passed he chopped their tickets. Sometimes one man passed for three or four tickets, but when he recognized them he cancelled them. He could not say whether the witness Chu Nyan was there or not but his ticket was chopped by him. Inspector Hansen said that that was all the evidence.
His Worship said he could not see an offence. Mr. May said that under section 33 the broker was responsible. He wanted a ruling as to whether the broker was responsible or not. His Worship—I find that there was no offence committed. The charge is therefore dismissed.

A MILITARY COURT-MARTIAL.

A SERGEANT OF SUBMARINE MINERS CHARGED WITH EXTORTING MONEY.

A court-martial was held at the Garrison Library at noon today, on Yeung Fan, sergeant of the Submarine Miners. He was charged with conduct to the prejudice of military discipline in that he demanded and received money from sappers of the Submarine Miners.

The Court consisted of Major E. C. Mills, W.Y.R. (President), Capt. L. A. C. Gordon, R.A., and Lieut. F. H. Pellow, W.Y.R. Capt. C. F. Mould, R.E., prosecuted, and Mr. H. J. Gedge (of Messrs Johnston, Stokes and Master) appeared for the defence.

This case was first heard on Thursday, when the whole day was occupied in taking the evidence of eight sappers for the prosecution and five for the defence. The evidence for the prosecution was that the defendant had persistently asked for money and the men gave him sometimes \$3, \$2 and \$1. The defendant told them that if they wanted to become sappers they would have to give him money, otherwise they would get into trouble. They got tired of this and reported the matter to their officer. The defence was that this was a concocted story.

On returning to-day, the Court was closed to consider its verdict. After about 15 minutes' consideration the prisoner was found guilty. Capt. Mills was asked to give evidence as to prisoner's character. He said prisoner had never been previously convicted and had no medals that could be forfeited. He had six years and 42 days' service. He served as a non-commissioned officer continuously, as sailor, for one month and as a sapper for six years. He had been imprisoned since the 7th inst. on this charge.

The Court was closed again to pass its sentence on the prisoner, which will not be made known until it is confirmed by the General Officer Commanding.

A SENSATIONAL ARREST.

A somewhat sensational arrest took place on Pei's Wharf at about 10 a.m. to-day. Among the persons waiting on the pier was a Belgian named Schults, at one time living at the Western Hotel, Ballif Brown, of the Supreme Court, served a writ on Schults and desired him to accompany him to the Court. Schults became very excited, and threw the paper on the ground. Brown then attempted to arrest the man, but owing to his violent resistance the aid of Chief Bailiff Howell had to be summoned. The Belgian still resisted and spoke of what he would do if he had his revolver. Against the two officers, however, his efforts were futile and he was soon lodged in custody in the Bailiff's office. The warrant was issued on the suit of the Hongkong Land Investment Company, for recovery of a sum of \$480 alleged to be due as 12 months' rent at \$40 per month for a house in Rippon Terrace taken by Schults, but never occupied by him. Two foreign ladies who had been in Schults's company followed him to his place of detention.

Later in the day, as no security was given for the payment of the amount claimed, the defendant was lodged in the debtors' prison.

NAVAL NEWS.

LONDON, August 13th.

Engineer Arthur S. Cripp has been appointed to the *Whitling*, to date Aug. 10th. Owing to the scarcity of fitters the defects to the *Powerful*, cruiser, Captain the Hon. H. Lambton, cannot be made good in less than six weeks, after which she will leave Portsmouth to join the China Squadron.

In pursuance of the Admiralty's policy of strengthening the torpedo-boat destroyer flotillas on foreign service, seven of these vessels were commissioned at the Royal Dockyards on 10th inst. Amongst them the *Whitling* was commissioned at Portsmouth by Lieut. J. P. Barton, with a complement of 62 officers and men, for service on the China Station. The *Bat* was to have been similarly commissioned by Lieut. C. Tibbits, but owing to defects in the hull the crew were transferred to Devonport to commission the *Shark*. The dispatch of these destroyers will by no means weaken the reserve fleets at home, as no fewer than ninety vessels of the type have been constructed for the Royal Navy during the last three years. The destroyers will be conveyed to their stations by cruisers. Now that the destroyers have shown themselves to be such a valuable addition to the strength of our fleet it is well to make use of them as far as possible. Already there are two of the class at Hongkong, the *Shark* and the *Arcturion*, and there are five, the *Arcturion*, *Bantha*, *Beir*, *Brutus* and *Dragon*, in the Mediterranean. To these it is now proposed to add six more.

The engine-room complement of the *Powerful* is as follows:—One chief engineer, seven engineers, four chief E.R.A.s, 14 E.R.A.s, 27 leading stokers, first and second class, and 219 stokers and stokers second class. At present there are about 73 stokers second class in each ship. The *Powerful* complement was 273 stokers, but this was reduced, before commissioning, to 219 stokers. Now application has been made to the Admiralty for the staff in each ship to be increased by two engineers, six E.R.A.s, six leading stokers, and 60 stokers and stokers second class. Practically, therefore, the number asked for is that originally considered by the Admiralty as the proper complement for each vessel. The number, says a naval correspondent, seems too great. When working in three watches there are five stokers in each engine-room, and four stokers and stokers second class in each stokehold; when working at full speed or nearly so it is necessary to put the men in two watches, which gives six men in each stokehold. This is not enough, and it will be absolutely impossible, except under most dreadfully trying conditions, to steam full speed with the present complement for five days. If the *Powerful* and class is to perform their important duties satisfactorily it is absolutely imperative that the Admiralty should make up its mind to man the ships properly. At present their efficiency is seriously impaired by their reduction to their complement.

ANOTHER 1ST CLASS CRUISER FOR THE CHINA STATION.

Chatham, August 9th.
The *Bedford*, cruiser, was placed in dock to-day to be overhauled and repaired. The work will be taken in hand without delay and the vessel brought forward for commission. It is understood she will be despatched to strengthen the fleet on the China station. It will be remembered that the *Bedford* was sent out here lately in company with the *Albatross* and brought relief crews for the ships on station. The *Bedford* is a sister-ship of the *Crafton*.

THE HUNT FOR MAT SALLEH.

(From our Correspondent.)

Lahang, August 25th.
In my notes of the 18th August I stated that nothing had been heard of Mat Salleh for a week or two, but he had then been for some time without news from Sandakan. I now hear that at the time that Capt. Reddie was operating against him on the East Coast, Mr. Hastings, with ten policemen, was working his way through the jungle from the North, proceeding up the River Segoh, then making for Klabat, and hoping by coming down either Tampasak River or Tawanan River to cut off his retreat to his headquarters on the Segoh Ulu. However, on the 8th inst., Mr. Hastings returned, I believe alone, to Sandakan, with the report that he had been intercepted by Mat Salleh, who was at the head of a very strong force. On the 9th Capt. Reddie left Sandakan on Mr. Hastings' route, accompanied by Mr. Barratt, with a strong contingent of police, and no news as to their movements has yet come to hand. Of course, the Government could not under present circumstances ignore such a report, but I should have very little faith in its truth, but I should have very little faith in its truth, but I should have very little faith in its truth.

The Tamboongas are a tribe occupying the country on the Papar Ulu. They number, it is said, some two or three thousand fighting men, and are held in very great respect by their neighbours. They will allow no white man to enter their village, and none has ever tried to. They pay no taxes, and have firmly refused to submit themselves to the British Government. They have been long as they are so alone. Their very name is a terror to the Muruts and Dusuns, and it is this terror which inspires them to spread the wildest reports, one of which Mr. Hastings probably got hold of. A tribe like this is an unpleasant factor in the present state of affairs, and one that the Company will some day have to face. When they do so, it must be with a force very much stronger than they have hitherto been accustomed to send on their various little punitive expeditions. If these Tamboongas were to join their forces with Mat Salleh, the position would be very serious.

On the 9th inst., Mr. Hewitt, our Acting Resident, visited H. H. the Sultan of Brunel and presented to him a memorandum of the Chartered Company's claims in connection with the Gaya Incident. It is understood that they include a demand to have all the culprits handed over to be tried in the North Borneo Courts, and the payment of an indemnity to the Sultan. It is probable, however, that they will be satisfied with a sum for "moral and intellectual damages" I do not know. With regard to the first demand the High Commissioner may have something to say, as the Consular Jurisdiction extends to such cases, and from it there is the right of appeal to Singapore. The second demand they can settle more easily, as they have only to withhold the payment of the annual cess money to His Highness.—*Singapore Free Press*.

THE CONDITION OF THE ARMY.

In a copy of the *Morning Post*, which reached us by the French mail this morning, we find three interesting letters on the above subject, and, as the question discussed by the correspondents is one that cannot fail to interest a good many of our readers in this important military and naval station, we reproduce them in *extenso*. The first is penned by "A Gentleman Trooper" and this is what he has to say about it:—

"Will you allow me to bring forward again an old scheme with a few fresh suggestions added to it? Since the authorities are trying to bolster up our already inadequate Army by tampering with the Guards, and otherwise tinkering generally, to the detriment of all *esprit de corps*, and since the Government is evidently bent on making new experiments, why should not this be tried? It is to be a new form of the old Infantry (four battalions) and Cavalry (two regiments) composed entirely of gentlemen, with an organisation and discipline similar to that of the Guards, with this exception, that enlistment should be for the same period as for the Line, *i.e.*, seven years? The brigade could be so distributed that two battalions of Infantry and one regiment of Cavalry should continuously serve abroad, the others of course taking their place from home in rotation. It should be offered to men of ability and talent as a means of promotion, at the expiration of service in the ranks, all those men who are recommended and are in every way fully qualified could be gazetted as Adjutants to the Volunteers and Yeomanry, which appointments might be extended to 10 or even 20 years, at the end of which period they would be retired unless further employed. These experienced soldiers would constitute an excellent reserve of officers. At the present time there are many desirable young men, of respectable family and who would make splendid soldiers who are debared from joining the ranks of the Army, while others still serving in it are waiting to buy themselves out, not on account of the trifling duties and hardships of a soldier's life, but because of their having to perpetually associate with comrades of an inferior and an uneducated class of men. Thus British annually loses some hundreds of the best of her sons, who now drift away to the Colonies or who are otherwise lost to the Army, and whose material would make some of the finest troops in the world."

The next letter, signed "Laudator Temporis Acti," is rather strong, but the criticism may nevertheless be utterly devoid of extravagance or "stretches of imagination." He writes:—

"I have read with much interest the various letters on 'The Condition of the Army' in your journal. It seems to me that so long as our correspondents of leading journals attend manoeuvres and report only the favourable aspect of affairs, lavishing nothing but praise on the British public be satisfied with the condition of the Army. It rests with you and other leading Editors to choose as your correspondents men who will enlighten the nation by speaking the truth fearlessly. Manoeuvres are to take place shortly in the South-Eastern District. It is too much to hope that what actually occurs there as regards discipline and efficiency, may be placed before the public without partiality, favour, or affection by competent men."

Finally we come to the practical suggestion of one who signs himself "Major-General" and seems to have favoured the *Post* with opinions formed from his own personal knowledge and observation in some of the colonies. He says he believes that "by the voluntary aid of our Colonies we might increase our Army, to their advantage by strengthening their defence and by enlisting a certain class who seek an adventurous life, and to our own by tapping new blood for enlistment and adding fresh troops to the Empire." Then he goes on to suggest that the wives of the Canadians be considered, and that the Regiment raised there be sent back for service, and at the same time that they should be encouraged to raise a second battalion, one for service abroad, to be paid for by the Home Government, and one to be permanently quartered in that country at the Colonial expense. He thinks other Colonies would follow this example, and "in a few years we might have 10 or 12 battalions of brave and hardy soldiers added to our hard-worked Army."

The fresh fall in silver justifies more vividly than ever the oft-quoted parallel between the precious metals and the customary means. Even Gold persons will probably admit that, if the world gave up selling cotton and silver as money, and that of silver would fall. Up to 1870 the world was using gold and silver as money. Since then one nation after another has been closing its mints against the white metal; and gold has, as a natural consequence, gone up and silver down in comparative value. We have arrived at a point, now, when China and the Straits are almost the only countries where silver is freely admitted to serve freely as money; and the natural consequence is that shocks, whose force would have been dissipated in a wider area, are concentrated in force. The two causes of the present slump are, presumably, the close of the Japan mints and the lessened Indian demand. The second cause may be alleviated with the return of prosperity. The first is probably, as we remarked at the time, more sentimental than real; but the silver market is now so restricted that it is susceptible to an artificial effect. The *Times* suggests as a way to give silver a kick—"imagine a, perhaps," "well-grounded" belief that the results of the mission of Mr. Wolcott and his colleagues are not likely to prove satisfactory to the silver men." But what *The Times* says about bimetallicism should be taken generally in an opposite sense; and we are told, on the other hand, that H.M.'s Government is in communication with the Government of India, whose opinion is awaited before negotiations are continued. From what causes severe, silver did, at any rate, suddenly fall, last week, nearly 12½ per cent. below any previous record. It fell, under the combined influences of the close of the Indian mints and the Sherman Act, to 27½ on March 3, 1894. It fell for reasons which not even *The Times* can venture confidently to affirm, but which we venture to translate as sheer want of support—to 25½, last week. And the T.T. fell to 25. 3½; while the rupee not only remains suspended like Mahomet's coffin, but heaven forbid, but actually rose a fraction to 1s. 3½, its intrinsic value at 26d. an oz. is barely 10d., the Government mint, with good reason, see cause to suspend. They Indian exports handicapped, on the one hand, 50 per cent., in competition with silver prodig, by the inflation; but the question how to get back to earth, if they so resolve, may also give cause for reflection.

THE SLUMP IN SILVER.

In a position so anomalous it is natural that anomalies should abound. It is scarcely surprising, therefore, to find that, while 26d. is equivalent to a ratio of 35 to 1, the "weight" ratio—that is the relative weight of silver and gold produced during 1896—was only 58 to 1, or, as nearly as possible, the old standard values. The fact has, of course, been notorious to all who had troubled to inform themselves on the point, that there was no justification in the ratio of production for a scale of values which had been brought about by the progressive exclusion of the white metal from use. Gold people talk of supernatural silver, and point to each successive inch of the widening gulf as a proof of their wisdom in withholding a metal doomed by nature to become trash. To such it may be news that, though all the years 1897-98, in no year did the output of silver weigh twenty-two times that of gold, and the average was only 17½. The fact goes far to establish our position, that the present position of silver is due simply to "force"; and it is a consideration that will weight, doubtless, with the Government of India in considering the question of reopening the mints. If the divergence were really due to over-production, they might at a temporary emergency in exchange if they suddenly reopened the mints and left the rupee to find its level. But if it is a result of disease, it is a natural presumption that *rapprochement* would follow promptly upon renewed use. It is impossible to predict what precisely would happen. But we heard a conjecture that, if the Indian mints are reopened simultaneously with those of France and the United States—as a result of the negotiations which are now going on—such a *rapprochement* between gold and silver will follow that the rupee will retain a rate of exchange at least as high as that at which it is now ridiculously sustained.

Those who are oppressed by this bugbear of over-production will do well to study a memorandum on the relative production of silver and gold since 1493, which an old Eastern resident, Mr. Frank Forbes, contributes to the July number of the *Bimetalist*. If the theory of relative production had been allowed to rule, the ratio in 1897-98 would have been 50 to 1, and ratio forty years later only 12 to 1, a "compensational balance" effect of 15½ mints kept the ratio steady in each case at 12½. If one metal flowed out the other flowed in—as in the case of Japan's suppositions condolt-connected tanks—until it is scarcely surprising that the belief should have come to prevail, that 15½ to 1 was a natural law. What ratio will be resolved on if the current negotiations have a practical result, or how it may be reached—is a point with which we are at present concerned. We are concerned to affirm only that the recent slump is not caused by over-production, since the relative ratio of production is the lowest for many recent years. If 102 of gold is valued at 36½ of silver when the ratio of production is only 1 to 15.8, it is because the enormous consumption of the mints has been stopped and the stream of supply may hardly find an outlet. The remark that, if the cause were reversed, the result would be reversed, is a little odd. Still, those victims of a "superabundant" delusion may, perhaps, be asked once more to reflect what would happen if the mints which are now open to gold and closed to silver were closed to gold and opened to silver instead. The result may facilitate a conclusion that the best way to deal with streams of all kinds is to restore normal outlets when there have been obstructions, and the majority of the Government's Agriculturalists may tend to show that that opinion is gaining ground.—*Z. & C. Express*.

If the sufferers from Consumption, Scrofula and General Debility will try Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, they will find immediate relief and permanent benefit. The Medical Profession in the various countries of the world universally declares it a remedy of the greatest value, and as it is very palatable it can be readily taken by the most sensitive stomach, and will never fail to give relief and comfort to the sufferer. Any Chemist can supply it. Sole Agents for Hongkong and the Empire of China—Watkins & Co., Hongkong.—*Advt.*

NOT A N D A .

CALENDAR.

SEPTEMBER.
Meteorological means based on ten years' observations 1885.
Barometer 29.85
Thermometer 80.1
Humidity 80.1
Rainfall 6.58

TO-DAY.

On date at On date at
Barometer 10 a.m. 29.85
Thermometer 8 a.m. 81
Humidity 79
Rainfall58

TO-MORROW.

Saturday, 11th September, 1897.
Chinese—15th of 8th moon of 35th year of Kwong-shi.
Worship of the Moon and Feast of Lanterns.
Jewish—14th Elul, 5657.
Mohammedan—13th Rabi II, 1315.
Sun—Rises 5.40 a.m.
Sets 6.40 p.m.
Moon—Full Moon 5.40 a.m.
In Equator 5.40 p.m.
High water—Morning 5.40 a.m.
Afternoon 5.40 p.m.
Low water—Morning 5.40 a.m.
Afternoon 5.40 p.m.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1700—Battle of Malplaquet.
1834—H.M.S.'s *Imogene* and *Andromache* arrived at Whampoa, and Marines took possession of the Forts.
1887—German schooner *Nidharf* lost at Taku.
1890—Public meeting of foreign residents at Yokohama to protest against the proposed new treaty with Japan.

TO-MORROW.

Sunday, 12th September, 1897.
(13th of 8th moon of 35th year of Kwong-shi).
Chinese—16th of 8th moon of 35th year of Kwong-shi.
Jewish—15th Elul, 5657.
Mohammedan—14th Rabi II, 1315.
Sun—Rises 5.40 a.m.
Sets 6.40 p.m.
Moon—Full Moon 5.40 a.m.
In Equator 5.40 p.m.
High water—Morning 5.40 a.m.
Afternoon 5.40 p.m.
Low water—Morning 5.40 a.m.
Afternoon 5.40 p.m.

ANNIVERSARIES.

1810—Marshall Blucher died.
1864—Strike of Hongkong washermen.
1887—The British barque *Patly* Simpson abandoned near the Britis Shoal.

CHURCH SERVICES.

St. John's Cathedral.—Communion, 7 a.m., 11 a.m., Evening, 5.45 p.m.
Roman Catholic Cathedral.—Mass at 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. Benediction, 5 p.m.
Union Church.—Services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
German Bethesda Chapel, West Point.—Morning Service, 11 a.m.
St. Francis Church, Wanchai.—Mass (China), 6 a.m., (Port.) 7.30 a.m., Benediction, 5 p.m.
St. Francis Church, Garden Road.—Morning Service (English), 9 a.m.
St. Anthony's Chapel, West Point.—Mass, 8 a.m.
Wesleyan Methodist Church.—Services, 10.30 a.m. and 5.45 p.m.
St. Peter's Stamen's Church.—11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

SHARE MARKET.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, 171 per cent. prem.; National Bank, 317½; Union, 350; China Sugars, 4140; Investment Co., 370; West Point Building Co., 311½.

SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAILS DUE:
Australian (*Gulhris*) to-morrow.
Canadian (*Empress of Japan*) 13th inst.
Australian (*Yamashiro Maru*) 17th inst.
English (*Albatross*) 20th inst.
American (*Peru*) 22nd inst.
German (*Prussia*) 23rd inst.
French (*Colindale*) 26th inst.
American (*Capitol*) 27th inst.
English (*Thames*) 31st inst.
Canadian (*Empress of China*) 6th prox.
German (*Sachsen*) 21st prox.

THE D. D. R. steamer *Corys* from Hamburg, left Singapore for this port on the 10th inst. and may be expected here on or about the 16th inst.

THE China Mutual Steam Navigation Co.'s steamer *Kinkook* from Glasgow and Liverpool, passed the Canal on the 3rd inst., and may be considered due at Singapore on or about the 21st inst.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s steamer *Empress of Japan* from Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. arrived at Shanghai at 1 a.m. to-day, and left at 10 a.m. for this port, where she may be expected at 5 p.m. on Monday the 13th inst.

SHIPPING RETURNS.

From 6 p.m. yesterday to 5 p.m. to-day.

ARRIVALS.
Maejo steamer, from Shanghai
Sydney " " " Canton
Chihai " " " Canton
Wingsang " " " Canton
Panthay " " " Singapore
Arake Maru " " " Kuchinotsu
Fomaha " " " Saigon
Lootah " " " Bangkok

Aggregating, 13,774 tons register.

DEPARTURES.

Hollan steamer, for Pakhoi
Chihai " " " Shanghai
Chihai " " " America
Sydney " " " Shanghai
Panthay " " " Shanghai
Longmoon " " " Manila
Shanghai " " " Canton
Maejo " " " Tientsin
Kuchinotsu " " " Compagnon

Aggregating, 13,881 tons register.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK RETURNS.

